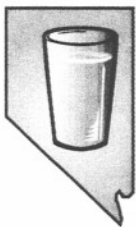




Water Lines Special Insert

Sources of Infrastructure Financing and Assistance for Rural Nevada's Water and Wastewater Systems

Community Development Block Grant Program



The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program assists in the development of healthy and viable communities by improving both the living conditions and economic opportunities for individuals, primarily those that are low- and moderate-income. CDBG coordinates and collaborates with various government agencies and non-profit groups to carry out locally based projects. Staff conducts regional application and grant administration workshops. Grants are provided to rural communities (outside of Clark County, Reno and Sparks) for public facilities/services, planning, economic development and housing.

Project selection is made through an advisory committee, representative of the 27 eligible counties and incorporated cities. The advisory committee meets annually to review applications and make funding recommendations.

Historically, CDBG has funded the following types of projects: water and sewer systems; preliminary engineering reports; senior citizens centers; community centers; emergency vehicles and stations; short and long range plans; rehabilitation of owner-occupied single family homes; infrastructure improvements to industrial parks; and business loans to for-profit businesses.

Contact:

Gene Etcheverry at 775/687-1812

E-mail:

cdbg2@bizopp.state.nv.us

Indian Health Service

This agency offers technical and financial assistance for tribes seeking to address health and safety needs related to water, wastewater and solid waste. Community-wide and individual assistance is available.

Contact:

George Pringle at 775/784-5327

E-mail:

george.pringle@mail.ihs.gov

Nevada Department of Business and Industry

The director of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry may finance the cost of a water project approved by the Board for Financing Water Projects through the issuance of general obligation bonds or revenue bonds. A qualified project would be one that provides for the management, control, delivery, use or distribution of water.

Contact:

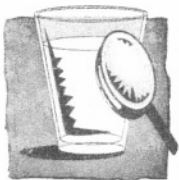
Doug Walther at 775/687-4250

E-mail:

dwalther@dbi.state.nv.us



Updated December, 2003



Nevada Division of Environmental Protection AB 198 Water Grant Program

In 1991, the Nevada State Legislature created a program that provides grants to water purveyors for costs of capital improvements to publicly-owned community water systems in order to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Eligible projects include water treatment facilities, replacement of leaky distribution and transmission lines, elimination of dead end distribution lines, spring rehabilitation, new well pump installation as needed to replace poor quality water sources, provision of backup water supply and storage tank rehabilitation.

The Board to Finance Water Projects makes AB 198 funding decisions. Grant awards are no less than 57.1 percent and no more than 87 percent of project cost. Grant funds are to be used to assist the most needy communities, allowing these systems to maintain user costs at a reasonable level.

Contact:

Bill Coughlin at 775/687-9422

Website:

www.ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/finboard.htm

E-mail:

bcoughli@ndep.nv.gov

Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund

The revolving loan program provides loans at or below market rate and other forms of financial assistance (not grants) to municipalities to assist them in financing the construction of wastewater treatment works and projects to control sources of water pollution. Eligible projects include sewage treatment plants, collection systems, interceptors, erosion control and other point and non-point source control projects.

Contact:

Morris Kanowitz at 775/687-9425

Website:

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mkanowit@ndep.nv.gov

Nevada Rural Water Association

The Nevada Rural Water Association (NvRWA) provides water, wastewater and environmental programs statewide including the Ground Water Protection Program, the Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program and the Rural Water Training and On-Site Assistance Program, and Solid Waste management.

The Ground Water Protection Program helps small water systems and rural communities to design and implement individual ground water (wellhead) protection plans locally. This program is designed to initiate preventive measures at the local level to prevent contamination, prevent noncompliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), lessen the financial burden on consumers and prevent degradation of drinking water for future generations. This assistance is delivered through NvRWA with input from water system personnel and state regulatory agencies.

The Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program is managed and operated by NvRWA. The program provides on-site assistance to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) water and wastewater system borrowers and/or potential borrowers. Circuit Riders provide assistance and training to systems in all areas of management, operation and maintenance to ensure financial viability for repayment of RUS loans.

The Rural Water Training and On-Site Assistance Program is a national grassroots effort to assist systems in solving compliance problems. It is operated by NvRWA and provides training and on-site assistance to both member and nonmember systems operators in formal classroom sessions with follow up, onsite assistance in SDWA compliance, public health protection relating to drinking water, and managerial, financial and operational issues.

Contact:

Georgia Greenrod at 775/783-7225

Website:

www.nvrwa.org

E-mail:

nvrwa@pyramid.net

Financing and Assistance



Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The primary purpose of the DWSRF program is to provide loans to public water systems at or below market rates. All community water systems, whether publicly or privately owned, and non-profit, non-community water systems are potentially eligible to receive DWSRF loans. Projects considered for loans are ranked on a priority list to address acute and chronic health risks and replace or rehabilitate deteriorating water system infrastructure. Existing debt (for publicly owned systems) is also eligible for refinancing under certain conditions. The SDWA requires that at least 15 percent of the loan fund be used to provide loan assistance to small systems that serve fewer than 10,000 persons, if there are enough eligible projects for systems meeting that criteria.

The principal repayments on loans go back into the loan fund for use on financing future projects. Interest repayments are used to retire state bonds issued for the 20 percent match requirement for the EPA grant.

The DWSRF provides technical assistance to public water systems to address a variety of public health, technical, managerial and financial concerns. This assistance is free to public water systems and is available through third party providers who contract with the State of Nevada to provide specific services.

Contact:

Adele Basham at 775/687-9488

E-mail:

abasham@ndep.nv.gov

Website:

www.ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/dwsrf01.htm

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) provides staff and resources to help rural communities identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems, assists in preparation of applications for infrastructure loans and grants, and provides assistance in the operation and maintenance of existing systems.

RCAC also operates a \$50 million revolving loan fund lending to other nonprofit agencies as well as public agencies for projects whose beneficiaries are 51 percent rural, low-income, tribal, agricultural workers or other disadvantaged persons. Primarily, RCAC is a gap lender, making non-bankable loans and developing innovative lending programs and products to help serve the financial needs of rural communities and disadvantaged populations. Lending programs include short-term loans for affordable housing and environmental infrastructure as well as short- and long-term loans for community facilities (health care, domestic violence shelters, adult day health care, child care, social service providers) serving rural, low-income areas.

Contact:

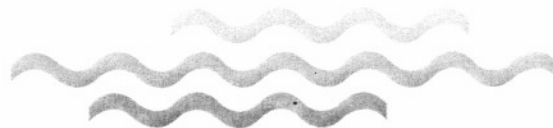
John Dailey at 775/882-8887

Website:

www.rcac.org

E-mail:

jdailey@rcac.org



**Financing
and
Assistance****U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Development**

This federal agency assists communities with water, wastewater (sewer) and solid waste management needs and provides loans and grant funding to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Indian tribes and non-profit corporations. Entities must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms and be able to pledge security for the loans. Loans and grants may be used for the construction of infrastructure improvements, acquisition of water supply or water rights, purchase of utility systems and payment of necessary fees associated with facility improvements. USDA-Rural Development also offers technical assistance with assembling information for preliminary engineering reports, feasibility reports, cost estimates, and financing and management matters in connection with proposed improvements and provides training and assistance through other programs as well.

Contact:

Mike Holm at 775/887-1222, ext. 26

Website:

www.rurdev.usda.gov/nv/

E-mail:

mike.holm@nv.usda.gov

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service**

The Forest Service offers annual Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Grants and National Fire Plan Economic Action Grants. The RCA program provides planning grants to help rural communities capitalize on their potential to diversify and expand local economies, and implementation grants based on the community action plan. The National Fire Plan Economic Action Program encourages the use of biomass including marketing and demonstration projects. While not directly applicable to infrastructure funding, these grant sources may free up or leverage other funds for infrastructure improvement.

Contact:

Tom Baker at 775/331-6444

E-mail:

trbaker@fs.fed.us

**U.S. Department of Commerce,
Economic Development Administration**

This program provides grant funding for development, expansion or improvements which are needed to enable economic development. The funding is tied to, and based upon, the creation of new or saved jobs for the community, and requires a comprehensive economic development strategy.

All projects requesting EDA funding in the 7-county WNDD region are prioritized, processed and submitted by and through the WNDD Board of Directors. (See WNDD below.)

For projects outside of the WNDD area, call the EDA representative at 888/693-1370 (toll free) or 208/334-1521.

**Western Nevada
Development District (WNDD)**

For projects in Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing or Storey Counties and area tribal governments, WNDD is a voluntary association of local governments which, through intergovernmental cooperation, addresses community and economic development issues and opportunities. WNDD serves its membership as a regional resource center, a State Data Center affiliate and provides shared professional staff to provide planning, implementation and technical assistance including grant writing and grant administration.

WNDD operates its own "mini-grant" Membership Assistance Program (MAP) for member local governments and nonprofit organizations within the 7-county region. Funding is limited: MAP funds can represent no more than 50 percent of total project costs. WNDD also administers affordable housing funds for the county region.

Contact:

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E-mail:

wndd@wndd.org